

Home Readings

Luke 10:1-24; Mark 6:7-13; Acts 13:44-52;
Acts 14:19-28; Rom. 15:15-21; I Cor. 3:1-11.

Lesson Links

The first ten verses of this lesson belong at a period before Jesus left Capernaum. That is he sent the seventy forth when he was still in Galilee and before the events of the last two or three lessons occurred. But it is probable that the return of the seventy described in the last verses of our lesson belongs here as to time and place. When Jesus sent the seventy forth he was just about to leave Galilee for Jerusalem for the last time. When the seventy returned Jesus had come down thru Perea (see map) to Jerusalem.

The Lesson Story

Christ's work was done in Galilee. He had lived there for about three years of his active ministry. He had preached by their lake, had seen thousands of Galileans hang upon his words, had healed many of their sick. He had turned from one part of their land to the other. And he and his twelve had preached the good tidings of the kingdom in all their cities. But it seemed that now his work there was done. Many had listened to him. Popular favor had changed either to indifference or to unbelief. Now he left Galilee forever. But before he left he appointed seventy of his disciples who should precede him and herald his coming to the inhabitants of the cities and villages along the way to Jerusalem.

Only a few in Galilee had understood and accepted him. Now Galilee was left to her fate. It is an awful thing to have opportunities which we do not use. They are sure to be taken from us and the fact that we had them will turn to our destruction.

The Greatness of the Harvest.—As Jesus turned his eyes from beloved Galilee to Samaria, Perea and Judea he saw the great harvest that awaited reaping. He had done what he could in Galilee, yet even there, doubtless, there were some sheaves which the scarcity of reapers had made it impossible to reach. And Jesus saw that in these other provinces were many more only a few of which could be reached in the short time remaining of his life's day.

After nineteen centuries the harvest is plenteous even yet. The field has enlarged. In many lands are souls ripe for Jesus waiting to be garnered.

Prayer for Laborers.—As Jesus saw the great need and the scarcity of laborers he exhorted his disciples to join him in a prayer to the Lord of the harvest, to send forth laborers into the field. We need that same prayer today. O, how badly we need laborers even in the Brethren church. Not people seeking an easy job, but laborers; not people making the ministry, or the Sunday-school, a stepping stone to something easier, but laborers; not ornaments, but laborers. Many of our churches have no pastors. The reason is found here: Not enough laborers in the ministry and not enough laborers in

the laity to support the preacher. Let us pray this prayer.

Christ's Charge.—Christ's command is "go." And he clearly sets before those who go the difficulties, "I send you forth as lambs in the midst of wolves." You can not expect a sinecure (easy job). You are to be defenseless lambs. You are to go among those who have the character of ravening wolves. Do not wonder then if you must suffer. "Carry neither purse (for money), wallet (bag for food), nor shoes (wear only your common sandals); and salute no man on the road (for salutations take too much time)." When you enter a house salute the house by saying, "Peace be to this house and if in that house there is one who peacefully receives you your peace shall rest upon him; but if not your peace shall return to you again. You have done your duty and the blessing that might have been his returns to you.

In the same house remain while you are in a city. There take your food and lodging. Eat such things as they set before you without acting as tho you are unworthy of them, because you are doing them more good than the cost of your living. And in any city that receives you, eat such things as they give you. Do not ask for better. Heal the sick there and say to them, "The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you." But whenever a city will not receive you, go into the streets of it and say to it, "The dust from your city which cleaves to our feet we wipe off against you." Nevertheless, know this that the kingdom of God has come nigh you, and you have only yourselves to blame for not receiving its blessings.

This charge was terrible, yet kind, for it made the work of the seventy in their missionary journey thorough. Every city and as far as possible every one in these cities were to receive the message. Then the matter would rest with them.

Two by Two.—We notice also that these seventy were sent two by two, for mutual helpfulness. There is a wisdom here which churches today would do well to emulate.

The Return of the Seventy.—They went. We know not how long they were gone. But they returned to Jesus probably after he had got to Jerusalem. Perhaps they had started out with fear. But on their return they came with joy.

The Joy of Service.—They had learned what only those who humbly serve others for Christ's sake know, that this service brings a joy which nothing else can bring. They had endured the scoffs of some whom they had desired to help, but they had joy.

The Devil's Subject.—The power which Christ had given them was greater than they had imagined. Even the demons were subject to them and at their command had departed from afflicted men. Only those learn the power of Christ who try to do something in his name.

Satan Fallen.—Jesus had seen something greater than his disciples. They had seen the demons obedient. But Jesus by faith

had seen Satan fallen as lightning from heaven, i. e., from his power of the world and men—thru the teaching of the disciples and that kingdom of God which he established. His eye had pierced the future when "the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdom of our Lord and his Christ." Slowly this is being accomplished. But thank God, it is coming. We can help it come.

Power Given.—Then Jesus gave them authority, so that they would be proof against serpents and all the power of the enemy. Added power is given only to those who dare for Christ.

The Real Source of Joy.—Yet Jesus would not have them rejoice chiefly that they had power to cast out demons. Their power was not to be the source of their joy. For that power might be abused. The real source of joy to them was to be the fact that their names were written in heaven. Greater than any ability we may have, any power given us, or any opportunities which are ours, is the great fact that our names are written in heaven. Joy from any other source may be selfish, but this joy will lead only to humble service.

Lesson Applied

- 1 Jesus planned his work. He used means.
- 2 If the church and Sunday-school could only be set at work to-day for Jesus as his disciples were, what results might be accomplished
- 3 The lame spot in modern church work is the fact that most of the members are idlers instead of laborers. They pay the preacher to do the work, forsooth!
- 4 Lambs are not noted as pugilists or good artillerymen.
- 5 Who ever heard of a lamb fighting a wolf?
- 6 The prayer for laborers is as much needed as ever.
- 7 Here are two companion truths: (a) The laborer is worthy of his hire, and he should not take his hire as charity. (b) The laborer should be satisfied with his hire.
- 8 The message is ours to deliver. The responsibility of receiving it is with the hearers.
- 9 The dust trod by men of God will testify against us in the judgment if we do not receive their message.
- 10 Satan fallen before those who go in Jesus' name. But they may not see him fall.
- 11 Better to have your name written in heaven than to have people say that you can cast out demons.

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Church News

Salisbury, Pa.

The church at this place is moving harmoniously. The S. S. is increasing in interest and attendance as well. One new class added while the other classes have gained new recruits. This department of the church is under the leadership of M. J. Beachy. He makes a model superintendant. His helpfulness is felt in every phase of church work. Harvey Fogle is Pres. of C. E. A few more wide awake workers are needed in the society. Mrs. Jennie Williams is Pres. of the S. S. C. E. Some good work has been done under her brief administration. We may expect much from this society for it has done nobly in the past. Children's day service was a decided success. The music was bright and lively, directed by S. L. Livengood and Mrs. Emma Stotler. Mrs. M. J. Beachy and sister Allie Smith saw that the little folks were trained. The singing by the little folks was pronounced grand by all who were present. The offering of five dollars was sent to Brother Lyon,